

**John 5:1-16**  
January 18, 1987  
**Rome Georgia**  
**October 6, 2013**

Subject: The man with the infirmity at the sheep gate.

Theme: JESUS' WORD IS SUFFICIENT TO ACCOMPLISH HIS WILL

Proposition: You may be here this morning and because of the cares of this age you may have become infirm in your relationship to God. The question this morning is DO YOU WANT TO GET WELL? The WORD OF GOD is able to accomplish HIS WILL in your life.

Introduction: The Douglas Wyoming story. ( Only read as though it happened somewhere like China or Nicaragua. )

Information in the CEE newsletter Jan. 87. Douglas Wyoming meeting that was mobbed!

*A group of concerned Christian citizens were desirous of forming a local chapter of the C.E.E. in Douglas Wyoming. The following is excerpted from an article recounting the event.*

Prior to the meeting, one parent was given a letter from the Douglas Education Association, an affiliate of the NEA. The letter had been sent to teachers in the Douglas school system. It accused the parents of being part of a "Radical Right group" and that the meeting was a conspiracy to "to plot strategy for intervention and possible control of academic freedom in the classroom and the entire local school system." The letter **urged parents to infiltrate the parents gathering.**

When the parents arrived at the meeting place at 7:00 the room was already packed with over 100 angry teachers and their cohorts forming a mob on the verge of violence. The room was so filled with seething opponents that the handful of Christian parents had trouble getting in to start their own meeting.

When the meeting began the teachers immediately began screaming, "tell us what your real intentions are!" When the moderator began to explain what CEE believes, he was cut off by a rapid fire interrogation from the red faced mob.

"An elderly female teacher began jumping up and down and shouting at the stunned Christian parents, "You're bigots! You're bigots! You're all bigots!"

Students who had come with their teachers were cheered as they hurled insults and disrespect at the handful of parents in the front of the room. In the hall outside the room there was talk of finding the parents' cars and slashing their tires. ETC.....

**WHEN MEN DENY THE POWER OF GOD, HYSTERIA IS NOT FAR BEHIND!**

### **Catholic priests in military face arrest for celebrating Mass**

The U.S. military has furloughed as many as 50 Catholic chaplains due to the partial suspension of government services, banning them from celebrating weekend Mass. At least one chaplain was told that if he engaged in any ministry activity, he would be subjected to disciplinary action.

"In very practical terms it means Sunday Mass won't be offered," Archbishop Timothy Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services told me. "If someone has a baptism scheduled, it won't be celebrated."

The Archdiocese for the Military Services tells me the military installations impacted are served by non-active-duty priests who were hired as government contractors. As a result of a shortage of active duty Catholic chaplains, the government hires contract priests.

A well-placed source told me that a furloughed Air Force chaplain was threatened after he offered to forgo pay.

**Broglio said some military bases have forbidden the contract priests from volunteering to celebrate Mass without pay.**

**“They were told they cannot function because those are contracted services and since there’s no funding they can’t do it – even if they volunteer,” he said.**

John Schlageter, general counsel for the archdiocese, said any furloughed priests volunteering their services could face big trouble.

**“During the shutdown, it is illegal for them to minister on base and they risk being arrested if they attempt to do so,” he said in a written statement.**

**A well-placed source told me that a furloughed Air Force chaplain was threatened after he offered to forgo pay. The chaplain was told he could not go on base or enter his chapel offices. He was also barred from engaging in any ministry activity.**

The source told me the chaplain was told that if he violated those orders he and his supervisor would be subjected to disciplinary action – with the possibility of being fired.

Ron Crews, executive director of the Chaplain Alliance for Religious Liberty, called those developments disturbing.

“Catholic military personnel should not have their religious liberties held hostage by this funding crisis,” Crews told me. “I find it alarming that these priests cannot even volunteer to provide services without threat of arrest.”

The archbishop said a priest at Joint Base Langley-Eustis was banned from officiating at the wedding of a **couple he’d been counseling.**

**“The wedding could be on the base, but the priest can’t do the wedding,” Broglio told me.**

A priest at the Naval Amphibious Base in Little Creek, Va., was told he could not celebrate Mass on base because of the government shutdown. So he discovered a way to circumvent the ban.

“He’s having Mass in a local park off base,” the archbishop said.

The archbishop said it doesn’t make any sense to forbid priests from voluntarily ministering to the troops.

“Most of us don’t look to see that we’re going to be paid before we do something,” he said. “They are not being allowed to volunteer even to meet the needs of the faithful.”

Bill Donohue, of the Catholic League, told me he’s not surprised by the decision to furlough Catholic priests.

**“In American history there has been no administration more anti-Catholic than the Obama administration,” he said.** “For them to deny Catholic men and women the opportunity of the sacraments and to deal with their prayerful vocations is really a stunning statement.”

Donohue chalked it up to meanness.

“This idea of punishing Catholics in the military - denying them their priests - is consistent with the animus this administration has demonstrated,” he said.

It’s not exactly clear who is the final arbiter in the furloughs – but I suspect it’s the same folks who kicked school children out of the White House and elderly veterans out of the World War II Memorial.

“It’s difficult to know who exactly is making these decisions,” the archbishop said. “I’m being told it keeps getting kicked up to a higher level.”

I called the Pentagon but no one returned my calls.

I called the Air Force public affairs office and they told me to reach out to the local bases.

Surely there must be some way to compromise, to let Catholics practice their faith.

I find it odd that the military was able to find enough cash to let their football teams play this weekend – but they can't scrounge up enough cash for weekend church services.

"It's a sad contrast when we can let a football game go on but we won't let a priest go on base and celebrate Mass," he said.

So in President Obama's world – college football players are essential but Catholic priests are not.

*Todd Starnes is host of Fox News & Commentary heard on hundreds of radio stations and in his weekly podcast. Sign up for his American Dispatch newsletter [☞](#) and be sure to join his Facebook [☞](#) page.*

## I. POWER NEEDED 3-5

**5:3** "The great number of disabled people pictures the plight of the unsaved of the world" BKC

"It is the type of a world full of men suffering various sicknesses, but all sick; the type of world that gathers with an eagerness, not far removed from despair, round anything that seems to promise, however vaguely, to help and to heal...." MacClaren

They had come to **Bethesda "the house of mercy"** to seek help and healing from the pool. But, one man at least, found his healing not in the limited pool but in the fountain of Christ's limitless resources.

5:5 out of the mass of people, Jesus picked a man who had been afflicted for 38 years. **There is no indication that the man asked Jesus to help him.**

**"The invalid was chosen by Jesus as an act of Grace because of his need and also to display God's glory in him"** BKC

5:6 " In the SPIRITUAL WORLD, man's greatest problem is that **EITHER HE DOES NOT REALIZE THAT HE IS SICK** ( cf. **Isaiah 1:2-7**; **Luke 5:31**) "they that are well need not a physician, but they that are sick."  
**OR HE DOES NOT WANT TO BE CURED.** People are often happy, for a while at least, in their sins."

**Isa 1:1** The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, *and* Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

**Isa 1:2** Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me.

**Isa 1:3** The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: *but* Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider.

**Isa 1:4** Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward.

**Isa 1:5** Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.

**Isa 1:6** From the sole of the foot even unto the head *there is* no soundness in it; *but* wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.

**Isa 1:7** Your country *is* desolate, your cities *are* burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and *it is* desolate, as overthrown by strangers.

**Luk 5:31** And Jesus answering said unto them, **They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick.**

DB Dec. 11, 1973. 'The question our Lord asked the lame man was neither cruel nor foolish, for it is possible that the impotent one really didn't want to be healed. "**do you want to get well?**" "was designed to focus the man's attention on Jesus, to stimulate his will, and to raise his hopes."

*(Pathetic Homo who purposely got AIDS Because he saw how much attention was lavished on another infected homo at a party.)*

Expositors.

He may have become an invalid in spirit as well as in body, finding satisfaction in having others wait on him and cater to his every whim. ('however, the text indicates that he did not have anyone to help him')

Some people are like that! THEY WILL USE A MIGRAINE HEADACHE, AN UPSET STOMACH, OR A CASE OF "NERVES" AS AN EXCUSE FOR THEIR FAULTS OR AS A NEANS OF GETTING THEIR OWN WAY.

THEY ACTUALLY SEEM TO ENJOY THE INFIRMITIES THEY CLAIM ARE SUCH A BURDEN, FOR THEY KNOW THAT GOOD HEALTH WOULD FORCE NEW DEMANDS UPON THEM.

**Likewise in the spiritual realm**, folks who bewail their lack of **joy and victory** are often reluctant to pay the price involved in obtaining these blessings. Knowing that they have **SINS TO CONFESS, WRONGS TO RIGHT, AND APOLOGIES TO MAKE**, they still are **UNWILLING TO HUMBLE THEMSELVES** in this way.

NEITHER ARE THEY READY FOR THE **DISCIPLINE THAT IS NECESSARY** TO BE MORE FAITHFUL IN BIBLE READING, PRAYER, CHURCH ATTENDANCE AND WITNESSING. Although expressing a desire for a closer walk with God, **they are really quite satisfied with their present state**. THEY WOULD RATHER BE **SPIRITUAL INVALIDS** THAN ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE OF FOLLOWING THE SAVIOR..."

It is hard for some people to change. We become set in our ways, and we like things the way they are.

I heard about a **museum** that had a **horizontal picture hanging vertically for 35 years**. They were used to it. Someone questioned them on it and since the artist was no longer alive they thought that the problem would have to go unresolved. But someone found the **original PURCHASE ORDER** that said it was a horizontal picture. They had to change one of the most popular attractions in the museum. (could not change the 5,000 incorrectly printed posters which still sell briskly.) **People get used to something and right or wrong, they like it the way it is.**

**SOME OF US AS CHRISTIANS NEED TO GO BACK AND CHECK OUR PURCHASE ORDERS!!!!!!**

Many Christians today have forgotten that they have a purchase order that determines the way in which they are to represent themselves to the viewing public.

**PAUL WROTE TO ANOTHER GROUP OF BELIEVERS WHO HAD FORGOTTEN THAT THEY HAD A PURCHASE ORDER ON THEM:**

It is found in **1 Corinthians 6:19** "WHAT? KNOW YOU NOT THAT YOUR BODY IS THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO IS IN YOU, WHOM YE HAVE OF GOD, AND YE ARE NOT YOUR OWN? FOR YE ARE BOUGHT WITH A PRICE; THEREFORE GLORIFY GOD IN YOUR BODY AND IN YOUR SPIRIT, WHICH ARE GOD'S"

**As long as we fail to check with our Creator to see how He intended for us to be viewed, we too will convey the wrong message to those who view our lives!**

**When we truly see what OUR PURCHASE ORDER clearly states, we may feel grossly inadequate to the task. And indeed we are! We are in NEED OF POWER and when God's children need POWER, GOD SUPPLIES THAT POWER!!**

## **II. POWER APPLIED 7-9**

TO JESUS' INQUIRY ABOUT HIS DESIRE TO BE HEALED,  
**\*\*5:7 THE MAN REPLIED THAT HE LACKED NOT THE DESIRE BUT THE MEANS TO BE HEALED.**

**THIS IS A MALADY COMMON AMONG MEN-ALL ARE IN THE SAME BOAT SPIRITUALLY!**

**He was without strength and without friends.**

"For when we were yet without strength, in due time, Christ died for the ungodly". **Romans 5:6**

See **also I Corinthians** on the weak and simple things.

**1Co 1:27** But God hath chosen the **foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;**

Here was a weak thing of the earth. A Cripple. One without strength and without hope. One who sought a miraculous healing from troubled waters **BUT WHO RECEIVED A MIRACLE FROM THE LIVING WATER!**

5:8. "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." His command carried with it the required enablement, (see **Lazarus**).

**There was an impartation of strength and ability. He could now do that which previously unable to do.**

There was a genuine dilemma in this man's life. If he could walk to the water, he could be healed. but this man was incapable of even rolling himself to the pools edge.

THE RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD SAY TO MEN SUCH AS THIS "**WALK THAT YE MAY BE HEALED; KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS THAT YOU MAY ENTER INTO LIFE**"

**\*\*But when Christ spoke to this man, and the man responded in faith, the ENABLING POWER OF CHRIST MADE POSSIBLE THE SUCCESS OF THE MAN'S EFFORT.**

How often this man in agony of heart had commanded his withered limbs to obey his will. The frustration of a paralyzed limb must be the most maddening of maladies. To see your leg and tell it to move and to see no results, must drive one to the very limits of patients.

AND IN THIS WE SEE THE FUTILITY OF SINFUL MEN, APART FROM THE REDEMPTION THAT IS IN CHRIST, SEEKING TO TURN OVER NEW LEAVES IN THEIR LIVES; TRYING TO PLEASE GOD IN THE FLESH; COMMANDING THEIR FLESH TO STOP SINNING BUT SEEING THEIR COMMANDS FALL ON AN UNRESPONSIVE BODY. UNTIL THE POWER OF GOD ENABLES US TO CEASE SINNING, WE WILL CONTINUE ON IN OUR SIN!

**As Christ spoke and the man responded and his legs began to move...that which had been incapable of serving their purpose and were an obstacle rather than an aid, these same legs now ENERGIZED BY THE POWER OF THE LIVING GOD, these legs moved and walked...**

God never tells us to do anything that He does not supply the enabling power necessary for it's accomplishment.

In the epistles, **doctrine precedes commands to service**. When we are told "to walk in the light as he is in the light" it is only because Christ has already made us partakers of the light...

"Take up your bed" you won't need to save your spot on the floor, you will have no need to return to this place of suffering and frustration. You have been made whole.

*(SOME WHO ARE SAVED NEVER TAKE UP THEIR BED/THEY PREFER TO LIE WITH THE INFIRM)*

But all too often, we forget that it is Christ's power and Christ's strength that will accomplish Christ's will for our lives! There was a need for the post resurrection Christ to stimulate the apostles such as Peter. (Cf. **JOHN 21 – Peters fishing trip**)

If Christ gives us a task to do, no matter if it is small or great in our eyes, He will also give us the ability to accomplish that task.

In the case of the INVALID MAN, Jesus' WORD accomplished His WILL. "This shows how Christ works in conversion. When people obey His command to believe, God works in and through His word."

**IF WE ARE EVER TO DO GOD'S WILL IN OUR LIVES, THEN WE MUST LET GOD'S WORD HAVE IT'S WAY IN OUR LIFE."**

**5:9-10** God's supernatural power was evidenced in that this man, whose limbs had long ago atrophied from lack of use, picked up his mat and walked.

"**Isaiah** prophesied that in the days of the Messiah, the lame would " leap like a deer' Is. **35:1-7**. Here in Jerusalem was a public sign that the Messiah had come."

**But there were religious leaders of the day who did not want the Messiah to come.** He would spoil all the fear that they had worked so hard to implant in the hearts of the people. Rather than seeing the power of God as it was revealed in this man, they chose rather to DENY THE POWER and continue in their own unbelief, the blind leading the blind!

### III. THE POWER DENIED 10 ff.

**9B** "and the same day was the Sabbath."

**\*\*10\*\*\*\* Joh 5:9** And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath.

**Joh 5:10** The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, It is the sabbath day: it is not lawful for thee to carry *thy* bed.

Notice that the Pharisees took no notice of the Works of God but rather noticed the violation of one of THEIR LAWS!



**"Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?** There are not found that returned to give glory to God, except this stranger. **And He said unto him, Arise, go on thy way; thy faith hath made thee well."** Lk. 17:19

5:14 When Jesus told the man to take up his bed He in **essence freed the man from the need to be in bondage to the RELIGIOUS LAWS IMPOSED BY MEN.**

But He did not free the man from the responsibility that he had to live in accordance to the revealed will of God for man, and that is that we keep ourselves from sin! SIN NO MORE. Many people confuse **"LIBERTY" with "LICENSE" The Christian life is not a license to sin!**

5:15-16 Notice if you will, that when the POWER of GOD was revealed and denied that the result was the persecution of Jesus for Righteousness sake.

We need to apply the power of Jesus in our lives today. The world denies His power, and if we begin to manifest this power, we will suffer persecution! But fortunately, this will lead to an even closer walk with the Lord and greater fellowship with His people!

**HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED THE POWER OF CHRIST IN YOUR LIFE? ARE YOU LIVING BY HIS POWER? CAN OTHERS SEE CHRIST IN YOU? WITH OUR FREEDOM, COMES RESPONSIBILITY, NOT LICENSE!**